

SOCIAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC POLICY (BA)

CIP: 44.9999

Program Description

Designing and evaluating policy depends on social science theory and research. The program in Social Research and Public Policy offers rigorous training with courses in economics, political science, sociology, and anthropology, as well as courses in quantitative and qualitative research methods, which enable students to critically evaluate research findings and produce original research. Social Research and Public Policy is attractive to students who are concerned with the major social problems of our times such as international migration, unequal economic development, poverty, racism and sexism, inequality, ethnic conflict, as well as health inequality and population dynamics.

The program aims to inspire students' critical theoretical imagination and helps them to make better sense of the world around themselves. SRPP majors will be regarded as excellent candidates for law school, and for graduate programs in the social sciences, in public policy, business school, public health, education, urban planning, and social work. Graduates work with NGO's, in public service, urban planning, and community action.

Its breadth and its emphasis on critical thinking and hands-on empirical research, especially research linked to policy questions, distinguish the major in Social Research and Public Policy. Social Research and Public Policy majors will produce a piece of original research to meet the capstone requirement. Students may collect their own data, conduct simulations, or reanalyze available data to make a contribution to the research in the field of their choice. Students will work with a faculty mentor to develop and implement their research design. Students who wish to do fieldwork abroad should develop the project in the spring of junior year and obtain approval from the faculty mentor to collect data during the summer before senior year. NYUAD's Institutional Review Board must approve all projects that involve human subjects before data collection begins. Seniors will attend a bi-weekly colloquium, which is moderated by a faculty member and serves as a forum for peer review and feedback on progress with the project.

Foundations of Social Science

Foundations of Social Science (FSS) has four components that focus on (1) intellectual traditions in the social sciences (Social, Political, and Economic Theory: SPET), (2) global development in historical perspective (Social, Political, and Economic History: SPEH), (3) quantitative reasoning and numeracy, and (4) gateway courses into the majors.

Students come to NYUAD with a great diversity of backgrounds in terms of their grasp of societal and economic development and globalization, with a vision that is often narrowed by regional foci of high school curricula. FSS is designed to broaden and amplify students' understandings of the world and global processes. Required and elective courses in each of the majors will be able to build on this foundation, thereby fostering intellectual growth.

Beyond their role in the programs, Foundations of Social Science courses are open to all students and will deliver high value to any student curious about the development of societies and social thought; the substance and skills students learn in these courses will be applicable across

the liberal arts spectrum. They are designed to foster informed world citizenship.

Concentration

Policy Analysis

Starting in Fall 2025, SRPP majors can choose to get an optional concentration in **Policy Analysis**. The goal is to provide students with in-depth training and understanding of how public policies are designed, implemented, and evaluated by scholars and policymakers locally and globally. Students will get exposure to a broad range of policies implemented in multiple areas of social life, such as health, migration, family, education, etc. The concentration has the following aims:

- To develop critical and analytical skills needed by policymakers to analyze complex decisions, devise public policies, and evaluate the suitability of these policies within specific geographical contexts
- To formulate policy-relevant research questions, interpret qualitative and quantitative academic and policy empirical analyses, and reproduce empirical analyses
- To acquire the specific methodological, statistical, terminological, and computational toolkit needed by policymakers to assess the impact and/or measure the effectiveness of a specific policy intervention on a range of social outcomes

Students declaring the concentration are required to complete two required classes (SRPP-UH 2610 Introduction to Public Policy and SRPP-UH 3610 Methods of Public Policy Analysis) and two additional Institutions and Public Policy (IPP) electives. The two additional Institutions and Public Policy (IPP) electives can be used to satisfy major requirements.

Study Away

The study away pathway can be found on the NYUAD Student Portal at students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways (<http://students.nyuad.nyu.edu/pathways/>). Students with questions should contact the Office of Global Education.

Admissions

New York University's Office of Undergraduate Admissions supports the application process for all undergraduate programs at NYU. For additional information about undergraduate admissions, including application requirements, see How to Apply (<https://www.nyu.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/how-to-apply.html>).

Program Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
General Education Requirements		
Physical Education (2 courses)		
Quantitative Reasoning (1 course)		
Experimental Inquiry (1 course)		
Islamic Studies (1 course)		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4
Colloquia		4
Field Colloquia (2 J-Term courses)		6
Core Competencies		
Arts, Design, and Technology		4

Cultural Exploration Analysis	4
Data and Discovery	4
Structures of Thought and Society	4
Social Science Foundations	
SOCSC-UH 1010Q Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences	4
SOCSC-UH 1113 Introduction to the Study of Society	4
Complete 1 Social, Political, and Economic Theory (SPET) course (see list below)	4
Complete 1 Social, Political, and Economic History (SPEH) course (see list below)	4
Major Electives (see lists below)	
Complete 2 Methods electives	8
Complete 2 Institutions and Public Policy electives	8
Complete 2 Social Structure and Global Processes electives	8
Complete 2 Society and Culture electives	8
Capstone	
SRPP-UH 4000 Capstone Seminar	4
SRPP-UH 4001 Capstone Project	4
Other Electives	
Complete enough courses to reach the minimum overall required 128 credits	42
Total Credits	128

Social, Political, and Economic Theory (SPET) courses

Code	Title	Credits
CSTS-UH 1015	Legitimacy	4
CSTS-UH 1097	Justice	4
PHIL-UH 2614	Political Philosophy	4
SOCSC-UH 1310	Foundations of Modern Social Thought	4
SOCSC-UH 1311	Introduction to Political Theory	4
SOCSC-UH 1312	Modern Social Theory in Comparative Perspective	4
SOCSC-UH 1313	Perspectives on Democracy	4
SOCSC-UH 1314	Sociological Theory	4

Social, Political, and Economic History (SPEH) courses

Code	Title	Credits
CSTS-UH 1012	Wealth of Nations	4
CSTS-UH 1021EQ	Boundaries	4
CSTS-UH 1043	Great Divergence	4
CSTS-UH 1125X	Law and Empire	4
ECON-UH 1112	Introduction to Macroeconomics	4
HIST-UH 2010	History and Globalization	4
SOCSC-UH 1011	Global Economic, Political and Social Development	4

Methods Electives

Code	Title	Credits
BUSOR-UH 2004	Data Analytics: Business	4
CDAD-UH 1067Q	Epidemiology for Global Health	4
CDAD-UH 1078EQ	Inclusive Data Literacy	4
CS-UH 2219E	Computational Social Science	4
ECON-UH 2020	Data Analysis: Economics	4
ECON-UH 3210	Quantitative Methods and Program Evaluation	4

ECON-UH 3912	Economics of Networks	4
POLSC-UH 2211	Data Analysis	4
SOCSC-UH 2210	Introduction to Game Theory	4
SOCSC-UH 2211	Survey Research	4
SOCSC-UH 2212	Research Design & Causality in Social Science	4
SOCSC-UH 2213	Textual Analysis for the Social Sciences	4
SOCSC-UH 2214	Applied Data Science	4
SOCSC-UH 3210	Advanced Game Theory	4
SOCSC-UH 3220	Econometrics	4
SRPP-UH 2211	Ethnographic Field Research	4
SRPP-UH 2214	Interview Methods	4
SRPP-UH 3210	Practicum in Social Research	4
SRPP-UH 3214	Social Networks	4
SRPP-UH 3215	Quantitative Data Analysis	4

Institutions and Public Policy Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ANTH-UH 2124	Politics of Healing and Wellbeing	4
BUSOR-UH 1008	Making Development Work	4
BUSOR-UH 1011	Foundations of Leadership	4
BUSOR-UH 1104	Diversity and Inclusion	4
BUSOR-UH 1302	Impact Investing	4
CSTS-UH 1074	Refugees, Law and Crises	4
CSTS-UH 1087	Future of Education	4
CSTS-UH 1102Q	Health & Society in a Global Context	4
ECON-UH 1701	Economics of Gender	4
ENVR-UH 1312	Global Debate on Green Growth	4
HERST-UH 1502	Judging Heritage: Cultural Property Law and Preservation Policies	4
HIST-UH 3110	Economic Development and Environmental Change in China	4
LAW-UH 1013	Business Law	4
LAW-UH 2121	Renewable Energy Law and Policy	4
LAW-UH 2124	Human Rights Law	4
LAW-UH 3503	European Union Law	4
POLSC-UH 2311	Political Economy of Institutions	4
POLSC-UH 2326	Politics and Finance	4
POLSC-UH 2411	Politics, Social Change & Development in South Asia	4
POLSC-UH 2423	Media and Politics	4
POLSC-UH 2511	International Organizations	4
POLSC-UH 2911	Environmental Politics	4
POLSC-UH 2912	Politics of Natural Resources	4
POLSC-UH 3313	Making and Breaking Elections	4
POLSC-UH 3413	Foreign Policy Analysis	4
SOCSC-UH 1112	Introduction to Political Thinking	4
SRPP-UH 1617	Sociology of Entrepreneurship	4
SRPP-UH 1701	International Migration in Global Perspective	4
SRPP-UH 1816	Crime and Deviance	4
SRPP-UH 1818	Gender, Policy and Politics	4
SRPP-UH 2414	Global Family Policies and Laws	4
SRPP-UH 2419	Migration Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2420	The Mafia Business: Sociological Approach	4

SRPP-UH 2610	Introduction to Public Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2611	Social Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2612X	State Formation: The Case of the United Arab Emirates	4
SRPP-UH 2614X	Women and Work in the Gulf	4
SRPP-UH 2616	Immigration, Ethnicity and Public Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2618	Welfare States in Comparative Perspective	4
SRPP-UH 2619	Leadership and Diplomacy	4
SRPP-UH 2620	Education and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2627	Organizations and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2629	Education Policy Analysis and Design	4
SRPP-UH 2630	Social Impact Design for Policy and Business	4
SRPP-UH 2801X	Community- Engaged Scholarship: Addressing Social Hierarchies in the UAE	4
SRPP-UH 3610	Methods of Public Policy Analysis	4

Social Structure and Global Processes Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ACS-UH 1612X	Energy and Society in the Gulf	4
ACS-UH 2614X	Colonization of Palestine	4
ANTH-UH 1104	Merchants, Chiefs and Spirits	4
ANTH-UH 2115	Anthropology of Forced Migration	4
ANTH-UH 2116	Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East	4
CADT-UH 1063	Foodways for the Anthropocene	4
CDAD-UH 1046EQ	Infectious Diseases: Preventing and Stopping Epidemics	4
CSTS-UH 1017	Revolutions and Social Change	4
CSTS-UH 1053	Understanding Urbanization	4
CSTS-UH 1074	Refugees, Law and Crises	4
CSTS-UH 1099	Global Media Seminar: Latin America	4
CSTS-UH 1102Q	Health & Society in a Global Context	4
ECON-UH 1701	Economics of Gender	4
ENVR-UH 1312	Global Debate on Green Growth	4
HIST-UH 1125X	South Asia in the Indian Ocean World	4
HIST-UH 3110	Economic Development and Environmental Change in China	4
HIST-UH 3310	Humanitarianism in Africa: A Critical History	4
MUSIC-UH 2668	Popular Music and Politics in Africa	4
POLSC-UH 2411	Politics, Social Change & Development in South Asia	4
PSYCH-UH 2215	Psychology of Sex and Gender	4
SRPP-UH 1413X	Social Change and Development in the Arab World	4
SRPP-UH 1701	International Migration in Global Perspective	4
SRPP-UH 2410	Gender and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2411	Wealth and Inequality	4
SRPP-UH 2412X	Islamist Social Movements in the Middle East	4
SRPP-UH 2414	Global Family Policies and Laws	4
SRPP-UH 2417	Global Stratification	4
SRPP-UH 2418	Politics and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2419	Migration Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2420	The Mafia Business: Sociological Approach	4
SRPP-UH 2421	Sociology of Economic Life	4

SRPP-UH 2612X	State Formation: The Case of the United Arab Emirates	4
SRPP-UH 2614X	Women and Work in the Gulf	4
SRPP-UH 2616	Immigration, Ethnicity and Public Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2618	Welfare States in Comparative Perspective	4
SRPP-UH 2620	Education and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2629	Education Policy Analysis and Design	4
SRPP-UH 2630	Social Impact Design for Policy and Business	4
SRPP-UH 3410	Social Science Analysis of Global News	4
SRPP-UH 3412	Issues in African Societies	4

Society and Culture Electives

Code	Title	Credits
ACS-UH 1010X	Anthropology and the Arab World	4
ACS-UH 1612X	Energy and Society in the Gulf	4
ACS-UH 2613X	Youth in the Middle East	4
ACS-UH 2614X	Colonization of Palestine	4
ANTH-UH 1104	Merchants, Chiefs and Spirits	4
ANTH-UH 2111	India: Topics in Anthropology & History	4
ANTH-UH 2113	Memoir and Ethnography: Understanding Culture Through First-Person Narrative	4
ANTH-UH 2115	Anthropology of Forced Migration	4
ANTH-UH 2116	Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East	4
ANTH-UH 2121X	Gender/Religion/Violence	4
ANTH-UH 2124	Politics of Healing and Wellbeing	4
BUSOR-UH 1011	Foundations of Leadership	4
BUSOR-UH 2110	Creativity and Creative Industries	4
CADT-UH 1061	The Body Archive	4
CADT-UH 1063	Foodways for the Anthropocene	4
CCEA-UH 1112	Fashion, Culture & the Body	4
CCEA-UH 1114X	Sexualities of the Middle East: A Cultural History	4
CDAD-UH 1046EQ	Infectious Diseases: Preventing and Stopping Epidemics	4
CSTS-UH 1017	Revolutions and Social Change	4
CSTS-UH 1053	Understanding Urbanization	4
CSTS-UH 1074	Refugees, Law and Crises	4
CSTS-UH 1099	Global Media Seminar: Latin America	4
CSTS-UH 1102Q	Health & Society in a Global Context	4
CSTS-UH 1131	Gender & Governance	4
ECON-UH 1701	Economics of Gender	4
ENVR-UH 1312	Global Debate on Green Growth	4
HIST-UH 1125X	South Asia in the Indian Ocean World	4
HIST-UH 3110	Economic Development and Environmental Change in China	4
HIST-UH 3310	Humanitarianism in Africa: A Critical History	4
HIST-UH 3315	Love in Africa	4
MUSIC-UH 2668	Popular Music and Politics in Africa	4
MUSIC-UH 3860	Advanced Topics in Music	4
POLSC-UH 2411	Politics, Social Change & Development in South Asia	4
PSYCH-UH 2211	Social Psychology	4
PSYCH-UH 2215	Psychology of Sex and Gender	4

PSYCN-UH 1002	Gender & Representation: Field Study Workshop	2
SRPP-UH 1413X	Social Change and Development in the Arab World	4
SRPP-UH 1701	International Migration in Global Perspective	4
SRPP-UH 1810X	Islam and Society	4
SRPP-UH 1816	Crime and Deviance	4
SRPP-UH 1818	Gender, Policy and Politics	4
SRPP-UH 2410	Gender and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2411	Wealth and Inequality	4
SRPP-UH 2412X	Islamist Social Movements in the Middle East	4
SRPP-UH 2414	Global Family Policies and Laws	4
SRPP-UH 2416X	Gulf Urban Societies	4
SRPP-UH 2417	Global Stratification	4
SRPP-UH 2418	Politics and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2419	Migration Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2420	The Mafia Business: Sociological Approach	4
SRPP-UH 2421	Sociology of Economic Life	4
SRPP-UH 2612X	State Formation: The Case of the United Arab Emirates	4
SRPP-UH 2614X	Women and Work in the Gulf	4
SRPP-UH 2616	Immigration, Ethnicity and Public Policy	4
SRPP-UH 2618	Welfare States in Comparative Perspective	4
SRPP-UH 2620	Education and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2627	Organizations and Society	4
SRPP-UH 2629	Education Policy Analysis and Design	4
SRPP-UH 2630	Social Impact Design for Policy and Business	4
SRPP-UH 2801X	Community- Engaged Scholarship: Addressing Social Hierarchies in the UAE	4
SRPP-UH 3410	Social Science Analysis of Global News	4
SRPP-UH 3412	Issues in African Societies	4
SRPP-UH 3810	Topics in Contemporary Theory	4

Concentration (Optional)

In addition to meeting all of the graduation requirements for the major, students who wish to pursue a Policy Analysis concentration will need to complete additional coursework. A maximum of 2 concentration courses can be used to satisfy major requirements.

Policy Analysis

Course	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
SRPP-UH 2610	Introduction to Public Policy	4
SRPP-UH 3610	Methods of Public Policy Analysis	4
Electives		
Complete 2 courses from Institutions and Public Policy Electives (see list above)		8
Total Credits		16

The two Institutions and Public Policy (IPP) concentration electives can be used toward the major IPP electives.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
First-Year Writing Seminar		4

Core Competency		4
Core Competency		4
General Elective		4
Physical Education		
Credits		16
2nd Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
Credits		3
3rd Semester/Term		
SOCSC-UH 1010Q	Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences	4
SOCSC-UH 1113	Introduction to the Study of Society	4
Core Competency		4
Colloquia		4
Physical Education		
Credits		16
4th Semester/Term		
SOCSC-UH 1011	Global Economic, Political and Social Development	4
Social, Political, and Economic Thought (SPET) course		4
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
Credits		16
5th Semester/Term		
Field Colloquia (J-Term)		3
Credits		3
6th Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
Core Competency		4
Credits		16
7th Semester/Term		
Social, Political, and Economic History (SPEH) course		4
Major Elective		4
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
8th Semester/Term		
Major Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		16
9th Semester/Term		
SRPP-UH 4000	Capstone Seminar	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
General Elective		2
Credits		14
10th Semester/Term		
SRPP-UH 4001	Capstone Project	4
General Elective		4
General Elective		4
Credits		12
Total Credits		128

Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the major in Social Research and Public Policy at NYU Abu Dhabi will acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities summarized below:

1. Knowledge and application of analytical frameworks to understand the policy process in different societies, including the role of the state and other major stakeholders and organizations, as well as the role of social and political movements.
2. A thorough understanding of analytical frameworks to understand social structure in societies around the globe, including an understanding of the causes and consequences of social and economic inequality, poverty, and social development.
3. Critical thinking, writing, and analysis related to the social science literature; ability to comprehensively and critically analyze the literature in fields of inquiry important for public policy in writing and for oral presentations, with an emphasis on analytical clarity.
4. Ability to apply the central concepts and methodologies employed in fields relevant to SRPP majors, including fields such as research on inequality and poverty, health, conflict, development, culture, and social interaction.
5. Critical assessment of the normative arguments and empirical evidence that play a role in specific policy debates; ability to assess the quality of existing empirical evidence as well as the need for additional empirical work relation to the policy question.
6. Critical evaluation of methodological approaches in the social sciences, including qualitative approaches such as in-depth interviewing and ethnography as well as quantitative approaches such as survey and experimental research; in-depth understanding of weaknesses and strengths of the major approaches to social research; familiarity with related software applications.
7. In-depth understanding of ethical principles in research with human subjects; ability to implement these principles in research design and practice.
8. Abilities and skills necessary to design, plan, and carry out a research project independently; includes developing a research question, formulating hypotheses, and designing the empirical approach, implementing the design and collecting data and testing hypotheses.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

NYU Abu Dhabi Policies

A full list of relevant policies can be found on NYU Abu Dhabi's undergraduate academic policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/undergraduate/abu-dhabi/academic-policies/>).